

Jesus said "I AM"

The words "I am" = an eternal existence of present tense. He has always existed. Everything that matters in life comes from Him; all power comes from Him; He is God Almighty.

I AM THE TRUE VINE.

John 15:1,5 Jesus said to Judas Iscariot, "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine dresser. ...I am the vine, and you are the branches".

What was happening that caused Jesus to say this?

- Jesus responded to a question by Peter. ("Where are You going?") John 13:38-14:4
- Jesus responded to a question by Thomas. ("How can we know the way?") Jn. 14:6-7
- Jesus responded to a question by Philip. ("Show us the Father?") John 14:9-21
- Jesus responded to a question by J. Iscariot (Why do you show Yourself only to us?) Jn. 14:23-16:16

1. In our opinion, what do you think this verse above means?

2. Look up Psalm 80:14-18 and describe how God the Father is described.

3. Look up Galatians 5:22-23. How is the Holy Spirit's work in us described?

4. After looking at all these verses above:

- a. Yes No Is Jesus the Son the True Vine?
- b. Yes No Is God the Father the True Vine?
- c. Yes No Is the Holy Spirit the True Vine of the fruit?

5. Some general facts here:

- a. Yes No A main vine and its branches are attached.
- b. Yes No The branches get life from the main vine.
- c. Yes No The fruit grows on the branches.
- d. Yes No Branches with no fruit are still attached & still alive.
- e. Yes No Branches pruned back are still alive & will grow again.

HERE IS THE BOTTOM IN THIS LESSON. YOU ARE A "TRUE DISCIPLE" IF YOU PRODUCE FRUIT. IF YOU DO NOT PRODUCE FRUIT IN YOUR LIFE, YOU ARE A "FALSE DISCIPLE" JUST LIKE JUDAS ISCARIOT.

A SUMMARY & HISTORY OF THE VINE

Isaiah 5:7	The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines He delighted in.
Isaiah 5:2a	God dug up the ground and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines.
Isaiah 5:2b	God built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well.
Isaiah 5:2c	Then God looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded on bad fruit.
Isaiah 5:4	God said, "What more could I have done for My vineyard than I have already done?"

1. Isaiah 5:7 Who is God's Vineyard? _____
2. Isaiah 5:7 Who are the vines in the vineyard? _____
3. Isaiah 5:2a Who dug & created this vineyard? _____
4. Isaiah 5:2b What was built in the vineyard to protect it? _____
5. Isaiah 5:2c What kind of crop did God expect? _____
6. Isaiah 5:2c What kind of fruit did He get? _____
7. Isaiah 5:4 Was the failure of the vineyard God's fault? ___Yes ___No

Psalms 80:8	You, God, transplanted a vine from Egypt; You drove out the nations and planted it.
Psalms 80:9	You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the Land.
Psalms 80:11	Its branches reached as far as the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.
Psalms 80:12	Why have you broken down its walls so that all who pass by pick its grapes?
Psalms 80:14	Return to us, God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see. Watch over this vine.
Psalms 80:16	Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish.

8. Answer the questions from the Psalm verses above.
 - a. ___Yes ___No 80:8 This vine was brought from Egypt to another land.
 - b. ___Yes ___No 80:9 This vine was planted and filled this new land.
 - c. ___Yes ___No 80:11 This vine stretched from a sea to a river.
 - d. ___Yes ___No 80:12 The vineyard was allowed to deteriorate by itself.
 - e. ___Yes ___No 80:14 The vineyard asked God for deliverance.
 - f. ___Yes ___No 80:16 The vineyard received judgment by God.

Some Thoughts:

- I am sure you are convinced that the "Vineyard" = The Nation of Israel.
- The "Vineyard" contains many "vines"; those "vines" = the people of Israel.
- During some parts of Israel's history, there was a vine on their coins; thus, the "vine" was a symbol for Israel.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DISCUSSION OF THE VINE

John 15:1	(Jesus is speaking.) I am the True Vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
John 15:4	I am the Vine; you are the branches.
John 15:2a	My Father cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit.
John 15:2b	My father prunes every branch that bears fruit, so that it will bear more fruit.
John 15:4	If you are attached to Me (the Vine), you will bear fruit; you need Me to bear fruit.
John 15:6	If you are attached to Me and bear no fruit, you are cut off, thrown away, and burned.

Some Thoughts:

- Jesus was talking to the 11 disciples in a garden after they left the upper room.
- Jesus = True Vine; Father = Gardener; 11 Disciples = Fruitful branches; Judas = Unfruitful
- Since all the disciples were Jewish, they were all attached to the Vine (Israel).

- *A Jew in the Bible could only have the outward appearance of attachment to the Vine.*
9. Answer these questions from the John 15 verses above.
- Even though the nation of Israel has been referred to as "the vine of God" throughout the Old Testament, who is the True Vine? _____
 - ___Yes ___No God's vine in the Old Testament became corrupted by sin.
 - Who was Jesus talking to when He said, "I am the true vine"? (See hint below)

HINT:

- *Jesus responded to a question by Peter. John 13:38-14:4*
 - *Jesus responded to a question by Thomas. Jn. 14:6-7*
 - *Jesus responded to a question by Philip. John 14:9-21*
 - *Jesus responded to a question by J. Iscariot Jn. 14:23-16:16*
- Who are the branches if we are talking Israel as the vine? _____
 - Who are the branches if Jesus is the True Vine? _____
 - Who is the farmer who cuts off the unfruitful? _____
 - Who is the farmer who prunes the fruitful? _____
 - What happens if you are attached to the Vine and you want to please God & demonstrate the "fruit of righteousness"? _____
 - What happens if you appear attached to the Vine, yet you have no desire to live for & please God? _____
10. Since Jesus came as a perfect and sinless human being, and since He is the True Vine, we are attached to Him as branches because we are human. ___Yes ___No
11. We are attached to Him yet can be a fruitless, unbelieving branch. ___Yes ___No
12. We are attached to Him yet can be a fruitful, believing branch. ___Yes ___No

Being a human being does not make you a believer; accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior makes you a believer and immediately a fruitful branch.

The Vinedresser (farmer) (The Father) does two things here:

- 1) Judges the false & unfruitful branches (unbelievers sent to hell).***
- 2) Prunes the true & fruitful branches (believers living righteousness).***

John 15:8 God the Father is honored & glorified when His pruning causes you to produce more fruit; more fruit proves you are a disciple of Jesus Christ.

IF YOU ARE A BELIEVER, YOU ARE PRODUCING FRUIT EVERYDAY.